

## **REMARKS**

The present filing is responsive to the Office Action.

### **Summary of the Response**

Fig. 1 has been amended. The specification has been amended. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 9- have been amended. Claims 2 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-12 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-4, 7 and 8, and allowance of claims 5 and 10.

### **Objections to the Drawings**

Applicant amended Fig. 1 and the specification to address the deficiencies noted by the Examiner.

### **Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102**

Claims 1, 6, 9, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Akiyama (US Patent 6,278,426). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While Applicant does not agree with the rejections, in the interest of forwarding this case to early allowance, Applicant amended independent claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Independent claim 9 has been similarly amended.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 9 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Akiyama.

All the pending claims should now be patentable over the references of record.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this transmittal and associated documents, or to credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 501288** referencing the attorney docket number of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 17, 2009

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Attachments:

Replacement Sheet

Annotated Marked-up Sheet

ANNOTATED MARKED-UP SHEET

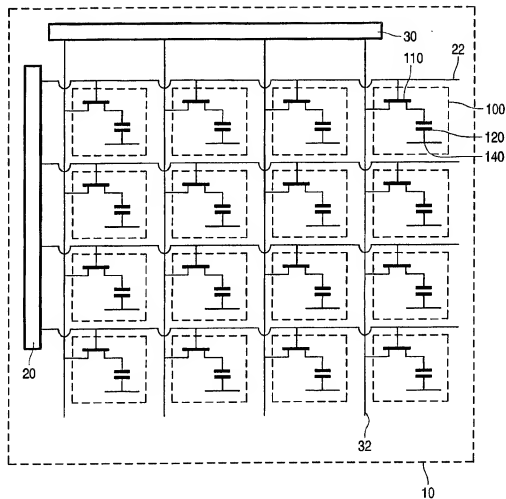


FIG.1  
(PRIOR ART)